

RECOMMENDATION FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

ELECTED SUPERVISOR; VACANCY: IC 14-32-13

Sec. 13. (a) If a vacancy in the position of elected supervisor occurs during the district's operating year:

- (1) the district supervisors shall, within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, recommend to the board in writing one (1) or more individuals qualified to fill the position;*
- (2) at the first board meeting held after the board receives a recommendation under subdivision(1), the board shall act upon the recommendation and appoint an individual to temporarily fill the vacancy; and*
- (3) the board shall notify the supervisors of the appointment made by the board.*
- (b) The individual appointed to temporarily fill a vacancy under subsection (a) shall serve until the district's next annual meeting.*
- (c) At the annual meeting immediately following the appointment of an individual to temporarily fill a vacant elected supervisor's position, the position shall be filled through the regular election procedure set forth in sections 6 through 9 of this chapter.*

("Board" as used in the state statute refers to the State Soil Conservation Board)

The Supervisors of the Decatur County Soil and Water Conservation District certify that (Name) Reuben Kissel maintains a permanent residence within the district and is qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that are imposed on supervisors by law.

ADDRESS: 9049 W County Rd. 1300 S

CITY, STATE AND ZIP: Westport, IN 47283

This temporary appointment is necessary because of:

- ☐ Resignation (enclose)-of _____ or _____
- ☐ Death of _____ or _____
- ☒ No election held.

We have advised him/her of the duties and responsibilities of the office of supervisor.

We have advised him/her about "Dual Office Holding" and provided a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS: (signatures)

Date Signed (M/d/yyyy): 1/7/2008

<p>Submit to:</p> <p>Your District Support Specialist</p> <p>Please visit the following website to access contact information for your DSS: http://www.in.gov/isda/files/dssmap.pdf</p>

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

IC 14-32-4-1

(b) To hold the position of elected supervisor, an individual:

(1) must be an occupier of a tract of land that is:

(A) more than ten (10) acres in area; and

(B) located within the district;

(2) must maintain the individual's permanent residence within the district; and

(3) must be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties that this article imposes on supervisors.

NAME: Reuben Kissel PHONE: (812) 591-2732 DATE OF BIRTH (M/D/YYYY): 11/20/1941

ADDRESS: 9049 W County Rd. 1300 S

CITY: Westport STATE: IN ZIP: 47283

EDUCATION: B.S & M.A.

OCCUPATION OR TYPE OF BUSINESS: Retired Agriculture Teacher

LIST CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES: Taught Natural Resource Mgt., Forestry Judging Coach

LAND OWNERS OR OPERATORS ONLY

If applicable, list some of the soil and water conservation practices you have installed or performed.

Pond Construction.

TEMPORARY APPOINTEE

Have you previously served as an SWCD supervisor? Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES, answer the following two questions:

1. What was the date of last service? (M/d/yyyy):
2. What was the reason for termination of last service?
2. How many years did you serve as a supervisor?

I currently hold a public service position/office ☐ Yes ☒ No (If yes) I have been informed about "Dual Office Holding" and have reviewed a copy of the Attorney General's Dual Office Holding Guide ☐ Yes ☒ No

By signing this document, if appointed as a supervisor by the State Soil Conservation Board, you agree to attend supervisors' monthly meetings regularly and carry out your responsibilities as a supervisor to the best of your ability.

Name of appointee: Reuben Kissel

Date (M/d/yyyy): 1/7/2008



OHIO COUNTY
Soil & Water
Conservation District
P.O. Box 14
Rising Sun, IN 47040-0014

March 27, 2007

TO: Whom It May Concern

SUBJECT: County Funding to District

County funding going to the Ohio County Soil & Water Conservation District was not dated in calendar year 2006.

The district had a turn-over of three (3) secretary-treasurer in 2006. Therefore we have no county funding showing in the 2006 financial report.

If there are any questions please contact the district.
812-438-1241.

As explained above, because of the changing of staff the request was delayed. It was paid in late January 2007.

McOne Weaver, chair
Jeffrey M. Chapman, Vice Chair,
Robert Turner, Supervisor

Ohio County Commissioners
Connie J. Brown
Todd White
Steve Lane

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF OHIO COUNTY SWCD

January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006

(File with Division of Soil Conservation by March 31, 2007)

Balance Brought Forward	\$ 14,903.16	\$ 14,903.16
RECEIPTS		
State for District Operations	10,000.00	
Clean Water Indiana Grant	7,000.00	
County for District Operations	0.00	
Federal Funds	0.00	
Other Grants (List) 75% LimeCost-Share Grant	3,971.25	
Other County Funds - County money pd thru extensor for conservation	7,000.00	
Total Intergovernmental Receipts		27,971.25
Equipment Rental & Farm Income Drill Rental	2,224.60	
Donations & Memberships	0.00	
Other Charges for Services (Describe)	0.00	
Other Charges for Services (Describe)	0.00	
Other Charges for Services (Describe)	0.00	
Total Charges for Services		2,224.60
Advertising Tabloid	4,140.00	
Annual Meeting Income	790.00	
Interest from Checking, CDs, Savings, Etc.	520.24	
Reimbursements & Refunds CWI Supervisor Training Grant	500.00	
Sale of Used Equipment	0.00	
Sales Income	0.00	
Workshop Field Day Income	0.00	
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (Describe) IASWCD Phone Resumbursement	444.41	
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (Describe)	0.00	
Other Miscellaneous Revenue (Describe)	0.00	
Total Miscellaneous Revenue		6,394.65
Sub-Total (before investment activity)	\$ 36,590.50	\$ 36,590.50
Sale of Investments (CDs, savings accounts, transfers)	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL (balance forward + receipts + investments)	\$ 51,493.66	\$ 51,493.66
DISBURSEMENTS		
Capital Outlays (Equipment)	0.00	0.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	1,493.25	
Audit Expense	0.00	
Clean Water Indiana Projects	1,257.98	
Conservation Education Programs	588.19	
Contractual Services	0.00	
Cost-Share Projects/Federally-Funded	0.00	
Cost-Share Projects/SWCD-Funded	300.00	
Dues & Subscriptions	3,550.00	
Employee Salaries Paid by District	0.00	
Office Supplies	351.29	
Other Services & Charges	0.00	
Postage & Delivery Expenses	93.68	
Printing/Copying Expense Tabloid/newspaper ads	3,167.72	
Rent PO Box	50.00	
Repair Expenses	490.50	
Sales Tax Paid to Ind. Dept of Revenue	0.00	
Supervisor Per Diem	3,450.00	
Supplies for Resale	0.00	
Telephone or Other Utilities	1,138.54	
Travel/Lodging/Mileage/Registration/Meals	2,534.38	
Workshop/Field Day Expense	0.00	
Other Disbursements (Describe) County money thru extension for conservation	7,000.00	
Other Disbursements (Describe)		
Other Disbursements (Describe)		
Other Disbursements (Describe)		
Total General Government Disbursements		25,465.53
Sub-Total (Before investment activity)	25,465.53	25,465.53
Purchase of Investments (CDs, savings accounts, transfers)	0.00	0.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (disbursements + investments)	25,465.53	25,465.53
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31	26,028.13	26,028.13
CLAIMS PAID BY COUNTY	Salaries + Fringe	Other
Totals Only		

CHECKING ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

Balances in checking accounts:

Name of Bank	Date of Statement	Statement Balance
Friendship State Bank	12/31/2005	\$ 27,094.73

Total \$ 27,094.73

Outstanding checks (list separately):

Ck#	1415	56.46
Ck#	1416	157.38
Ck#	1424	150.00
Ck#	1425	40.37
Ck#	1426	49.25
Ck#	1427	300.00
Ck#	1428	78.14
Ck#	1431	235.00

Subtract total outstanding checks	\$ 1,066.60
Plus deposits in transit	\$ -
Adjusted bank balance (should equal Balance at December 31 on reverse side of this form)	\$ 26,028.13

Petty Cash Fund	Cash in Box	\$ -	(+)	Paid Invoicees	\$ -	\$ -
Cash Change Fund	Cash in Box	\$ -	(+/-)	Amount Over+/under	\$ -	\$ -
Total Cash Available (excluding investments) as of 12/31/06					\$ 26,028.13	

INVESTMENT INVENTORY AS OF 12/31/2006

List separately and identify	Date of Purchase	Account or Serial Number	Purchase Cost	Beginning Value or Balance	Deposits or Purchases of Investments	Earned Interest	Withdrawals or Sales of Investments	Ending Balance 12/31/2006
Savings Accts	XXX		XXXXX					0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
CDs	1/10/2005	57503	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	327.52	327.52	10,000.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
Total;s	XXX		XXXXX	10,000.00	0.00	327.52	327.52	10,000.00

This District Financial Report is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

_____, Treasurer
OHIO County SWCD

Date 3/17/2007

This is an unaudited report

Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District
9608 HWY 62
Charlestown, IN 47111
812-256-2330



*"Inspiring community involvement through teaching, leading and providing technical assistance
to keep our natural resources abundant, fertile and clean"*
December 13, 2007

State Soil Conservation Board
c/o Indiana State Department of Agriculture
101 W. Ohio St., Suite 1200
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: CWI Grant #7-CWI-412
Water Quality Improvement Buffer Initiative
Clark County SWCD

Dear Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Clark County Board of Supervisors in regards to the Clean Water Indiana Grant we were awarded for this year.

Our grant project seeks to double the amount of water quality improvement buffers installed in Clark County compared to previous year's averages. To do this, we planned to utilize a farmer-to-farmer approach to marketing the buffer practices and the programs available to install them.

You graciously granted us an extension to our grant in August of this year to allow us additional time to hire a marketing person and move ahead with our project. The person we hired is now no longer able to continue in the project. We are once again seeking a means to carry out our grant successfully.

After reviewing and discussing many options, we are proposing the following changes to our grant:

- Utilize District staff to market the buffer programs instead of hiring an outside person.
- Utilize the money designated for Personnel to provide incentive payments to landowners who install buffers. Payments will mirror those offered through CREP, since land in our county is not eligible for CREP at this time.
- Utilize the money designated for Travel to print and mail a second newsletter, and to print handouts. *Our first newsletter features an article, picture, and contact information of the marketing person we hired; therefore, it is not useable for a second mailing.*

Sam Hagest
CHAIRMAN
722 Deam Lake Rd.
Borden, IN 47106

Dana Coots
VICE CHAIRMAN
7475 Bethany Rd.
Charlestown, IN 47111

Amil Kleinert
6921 Stacy Rd.
Charlestown, IN 47111

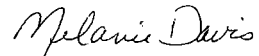
Joseph Madison, Jr.
5013 New Washington-
Bethlehem Rd.
New Washington, IN 47162

Peg Wright
3029 Seminole Dr.
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

We sincerely desire to complete our project on schedule and install our goal of 36,000 feet of buffers. We hope you will thoughtfully consider our proposal and approve the changes we have set forth above.

We thank you in advance for your time in considering this matter. Any questions you have may be directed to me at (812) 256-2330, ext. 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Davis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Melanie Davis
Administrative Coordinator



APPLICATION FOR CWI GRANT
PROGRAM MARKETING
INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

Use this form to apply for CWI Grant: Program Marketing.
This application MUST be typed and MUST be submitted electronically to Cris Goode at cgoode@sda.in.gov.

Grantee Name: Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District

List specific partners who will assist with this project, as well as the amount of their contribution.

Please attach letters of support.			
Partner	Amount	Partner	Amount
1. NRCS	\$2,500	6.	
2. FSA	\$2,500	7.	
3.		8.	
4.		9.	
5.		10.	
Total			\$5,000.00

Grantee Address:
Address 9608 Highway 62
City/State/Zip Charlestown, IN 47111

Grantee Contact Name: Melanie Davis
Title Administrative Coordinator
Address 9608 Highway 62
City/State/Zip Charlestown, IN 47111
County Clark
Telephone 812-256-2330, ext. 3
E-mail melanie.davis@in.nacdnet.net

Grant Amount:
\$16,500.00

Project Start Date:
1/1/2007

Project Expiration Date:
12/31/2007

Federal ID Number:
35-1262258

Signature Authority (District Chairman):
Name Sam Hagest

Are you considered a minority business? (yes or no)
No

Project Title and Short Description:

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT BUFFER INITIATIVE. The project consists of utilizing Clean Water Indiana dollars to double the amount of water quality improvement buffers installed in Clark County compared to previous year's averages. A goal of installing over 36,000 feet of buffers this year will be accomplished by utilizing a farmer-to-farmer approach to marketing the buffer practices and the programs available to install them.

Where is the project located?

County Clark
Region South-Southeast
Watershed Silver-Little KY

How will the project impact the geographic area?

The watershed addressed in this project, Silver-Little KY, encompasses the majority of Clark County. Five streams within this watershed have been identified as impaired on the EPA's 303(d) List of impaired water bodies: a Silver Creek tributary, and Little Indian Creek for impaired biotic communities (IBC); Silver Creek itself for fish consumption advisory; and Yankee Creek and Fourteen Mile Creek for e. coli. Also to be of concern is the fact that the waters of Silver Creek drain directly into the Ohio River, another waterbody on the 303(d) List. In addition, the Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) for the Silver-Little Kentucky Watershed confirms these concerns and additionally identifies stream bank erosion and channel stability as a major concern for this watershed. Riparian forested buffer establishment seems logical as a solution to help alleviate these concerns.

Furthermore, as more landowners apply water quality improvement buffers, several positive impacts will be seen on natural resources, and particularly water quality in the region. The buffer practices proposed for installation in this project can provide a significant benefit for impaired waterbodies in the region. In addition, increased use of riparian forested buffers would provide exceptional benefits for water quality, wildlife habitat and streambank stabilization. Soil loss from erosion on cropland would be reduced due to more installation of practices like grassed waterways, filter strips and field borders. Improved soil quality and better utilization of marginal areas along streams and field borders would also be a result of increasing landowner participation in programs available to assist with buffer installation.

Describe the project you are proposing including key steps, benchmarks, and desired outcomes.

The program will utilize development and direct mailing of buffer and program specific information to help with education efforts.

The primary practices targeted for installation will include filter strips, riparian forested buffers, and grassed waterways.

NRCS personnel will advise and train District staff on program details and specifications so that water quality improvement buffers are correctly planned, measured and installed. They will also advise on the specifics of CRP and other program enrollment requirements, as well as complete conservation planning and other required program activities. FSA personnel will process applications and contracts so that cost-share payments may be made for any CRP.

The project will accomplish the objectives by providing direct educational and technical assistance to landowners from employees hired on a contractual basis by the District. Two employees will be hired on a regional basis in the district and will be familiar and well respected members of the agricultural community in each region. The employees will be provided an hourly wage and mileage, as well as a bonus payment for each acre of buffer that they are instrumental in implementing on the land.

The existing District staff will be utilized to develop and mail buffer specific information directly to landowners in the District. Responses from this mailing will be used to help make landowner contacts and target technical assistance.

District staff will act as an intermediary between NRCS personnel and landowners, by assisting in program implementation. Staff will also assist in advising and training the contractual employees on program details and specifications, and serve as a contact for information when employees are working in the field.

The project will be showcased during the Clark County 4-H Fair in the SWCD's exhibit area, in order to increase project awareness and gain additional landowner contacts.

By implementing this project we would hope to improve water quality in Clark County through greater landowner participation in programs to implement conservation buffer practices. Achieving the goal of 100% increase or more in the amount of water quality improvement buffers installed in Clark County will be the ultimate and immediate accomplishment for this project. The effects of this accomplishment over time will be far reaching. Water quality will be improved through reduced sediment, nutrients and pesticides reaching our streams.

An increased awareness among landowners of the benefits of buffers, and the assistance programs available to install them, will be an additional outcome.

How does the project correlate with your local business plan and the Indiana Conservation Partnership strategic plan?

The ICP Strategic Plan notes that it desires "clean drinking water, cleaner streams, rivers and lakes for recreation, productive soils for Indiana farmers, and enhanced quality of life for Indiana citizens." The SWCD business plan states these same desires. At our local level, however, achieving them will be a challenge.

We are situated in a county that is seeing a burst in urban/suburban growth, as evidenced by the 159 Erosion and Sediment Control plans that have passed through the District office since the beginning of 2005. We watch fences being torn down and roads being built daily on the site of the old Indiana Army Ammunition Plant (INAAP), which adjoins our office; its 6000 acres having just been released to the INAAP Reuse Authority for development. And we have seen the number of farms drop in Clark County from 2,067 in 1900 to 647 in 1997, and the land in farms drop from 216,526 to 108,773.

In order to effectively plan for the next five years, the SWCD recently conducted a county-wide "Conservation Needs" survey. When asked for additional comments, participants responded with:

"I think more effort should be put forth to understand the health of our soil."

"I would like to see more farm land preserved for future generations. More trees planted on property."

"..., I feel the biggest concern is the fragmentation and development of both forest and agricultural land."

"Land along creeks and their tributaries [need natural resource conservation assistance]..."

"...set up plans to help our farms from soil erosion...Plant more trees to keep soil from washing away."

As a result, the SWCD was prompted to identify soil quality as a critical natural resource concern in its business plan. We plan not only to address the loss of soil through erosion, but also the loss of organic matter and the resulting reduction in soil quality. This project will compliment the District's Silver Creek Watershed Improvement Project slated to start January 1, 2007. This is an EPA 319 grant project, which will involve developing a watershed management plan, stimulating community awareness of water quality, and laying the foundation of watershed ownership/investment in watershed improvements.

We do not plan for this project to be a stagnant one, but rather an annual one that we can carry on after the grant has expired. In accord with the ICP Strategic Plan, we plan to provide a *consistent and positive message describing the economic, environmental, and quality of life benefits of conservation.*

Budget		
	Expense Item	CWI Funds Requested
Personnel		\$16,284
Fringe Benefits		
Travel		\$2,400
Equipment (Itemize)		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
Supplies (Itemize)		
1.	Printing handouts and newsletters	\$750
2.	Postage for mailings	\$400
3.	Copy paper, photo paper and other materials to create a display	\$200
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
Other		
Total CWI Funds Requested		\$20,034
Total SWED Funds Contributed		\$5,446
Total Partner Funds Contributed (Line 20)		\$5,000
Total Project Cost		\$30,480

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT 1-14-08

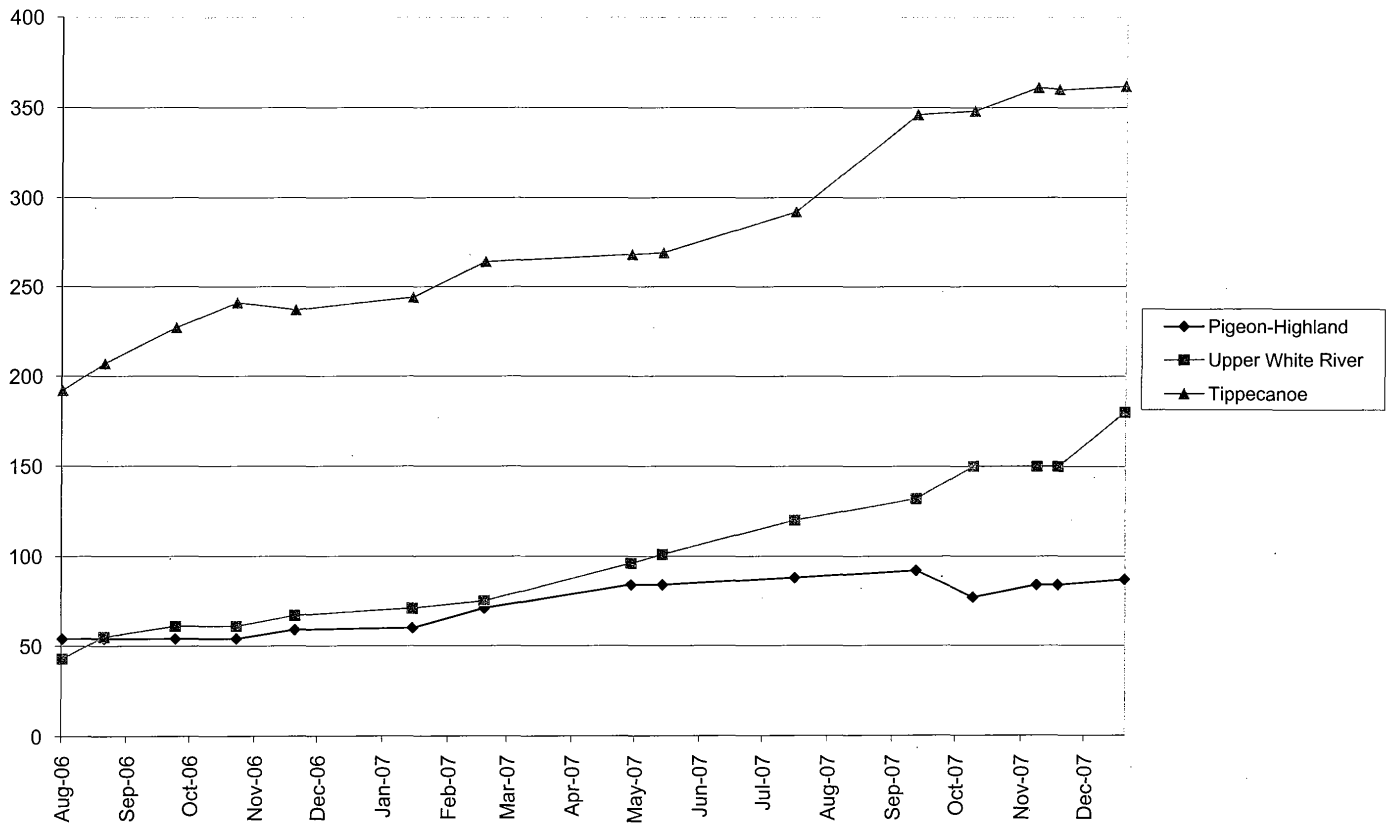
January 14, 2008

<u>Watersheds</u>	<u>Contracts</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Obligated Funds</u>
Tippecanoe River	362	2117.6	\$311,100.00
Upper White River	180	1408.7	\$639,560.00
Pigeon/Highland Rivers	87	351.7	\$68,350.00
TOTAL	629	3878	\$1,019,010.00

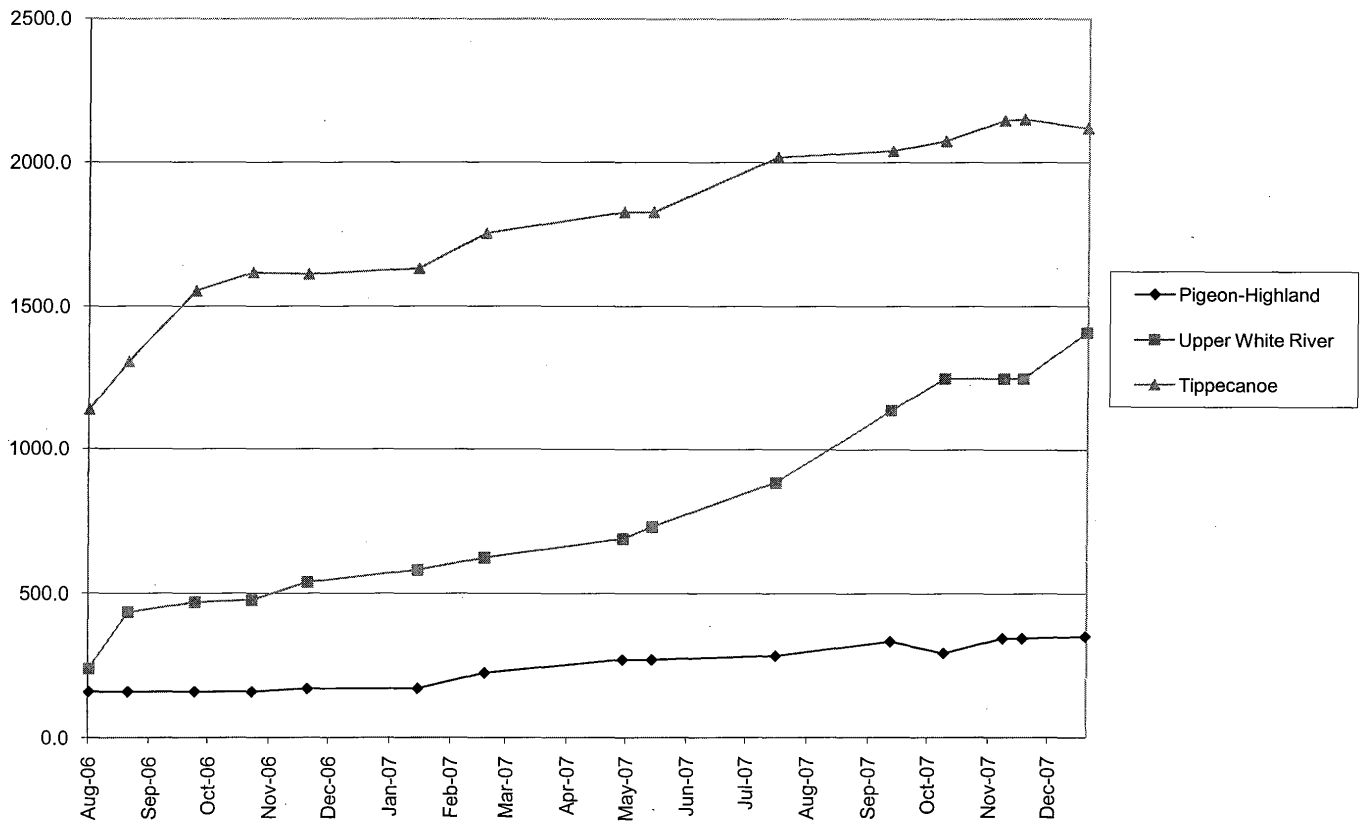
December 11, 2007

<u>Watersheds</u>	<u>Contracts</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Obligated Funds</u>
Tippecanoe River	360	2148.2	\$312,900.00
Upper White River	150	1248.1	\$588,325.00
Pigeon/Highland Rivers	84	344.9	\$67,670.00
TOTAL	594	3741.2	\$968,895.00

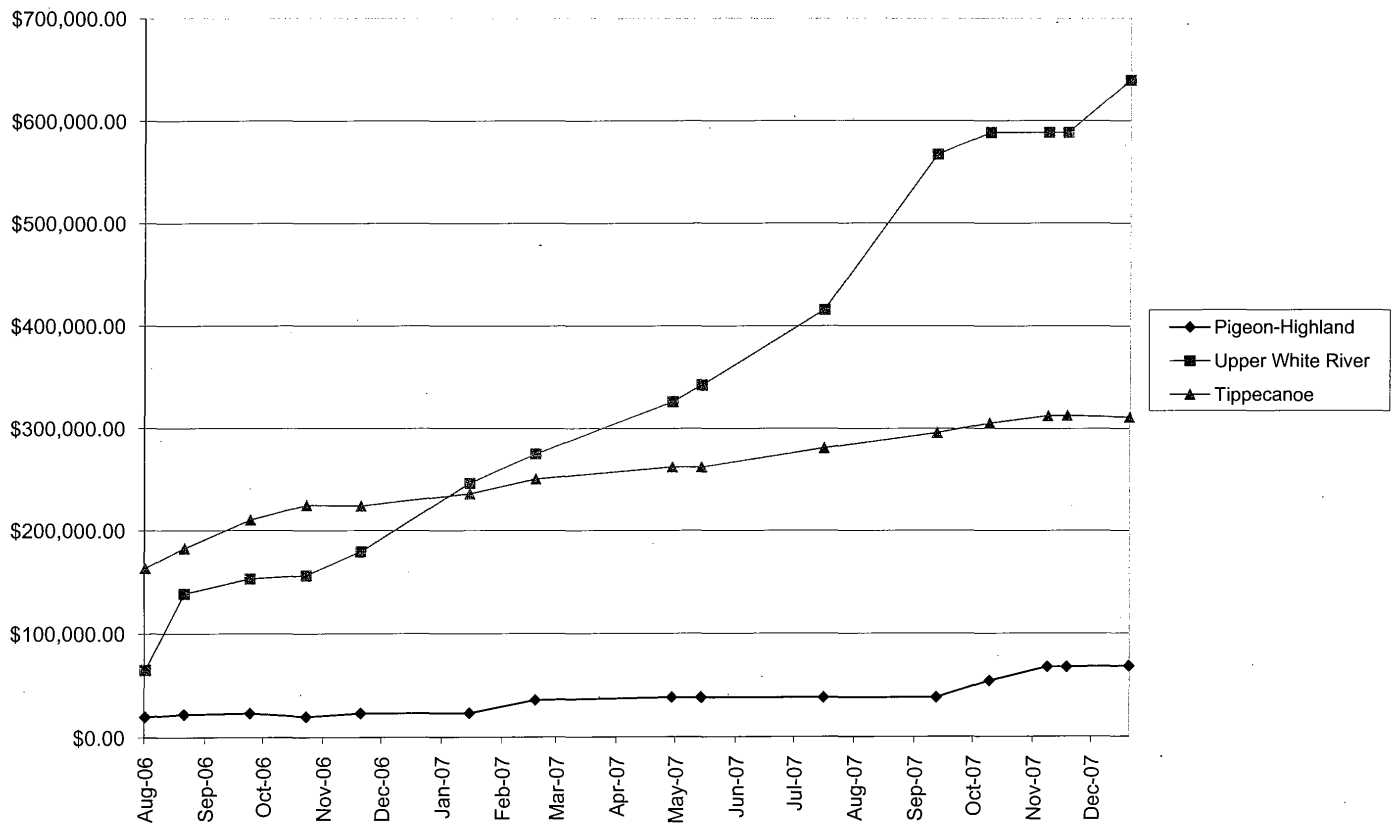
CREP Landowner Contracts August 2006 - January 2008



CREP Obligated Acres August 2006 - January 2008



CREP Obligated Funds August 2006 - January 2008



CREP Report - By County**1/11/2008****PIGEON HIGHLAND WATERSHED**

	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Gibson	55.8	\$5,580.00	\$162,712.80
Posey	57.9	\$14,010.00	\$168,836.40
Vanderburgh	161.2	\$38,500.00	\$470,059.20
Warrick	76.8	\$10,260.00	\$223,948.80
TOTAL	351.7	\$68,350.00	\$1,025,557.20

TIPPECANOE WATERSHED

	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Benton	2.6	\$260.00	\$7,581.60
Cass	47	\$17,600.00	\$137,052.00
Fulton	319	\$35,530.00	\$930,204.00
Jasper	97.7	\$19,880.00	\$284,893.20
Kosciusko	81.1	\$13,780.00	\$236,487.60
Marshall	45.5	\$4,760.00	\$132,678.00
Nobel	7.7	\$770.00	\$22,453.20
Pulaski	1094.4	\$150,160.00	\$3,191,270.40
Starke	218.9	\$29,720.00	\$638,312.40
White	188.2	\$36,940.00	\$548,791.20
Whitley	15.5	\$1,700.00	\$45,198.00
TOTAL	2117.6	\$311,100.00	\$6,174,921.60

UPPER WHITE WHATERSHED

	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Boone	16.9	\$2,560.00	\$49,280.40
Delaware	183.8	\$48,710.00	\$535,960.80
Hamilton	337	\$172,705.00	\$982,692.00
Hendricks	49.1	\$9,110.00	\$143,175.60
Henry	11.1	\$1,110.00	\$32,367.60
Madison	603.9	\$361,100.00	\$1,760,972.40
Randolph	127.7	\$31,670.00	\$372,373.20
Tipton	79.2	\$12,595.00	\$230,947.20
TOTAL	1408.7	\$639,560.00	\$4,107,769.20

Clean Water Indiana Grant Report for the month of January

CWI 2006

- There are 27 closed grants.
- There are 5 more grants with completed projects, currently going through the process of receiving their funds.
- Once these are processed a total of \$403,428.25 will be paid out of 06 funds to the districts.

CWI 2007

- There are 7 closed grants from CWI 2007, and they total \$16,937.
- There are 10 more grants with completed projects currently going through the process of receiving their funds. Total funding for these 10 grants comes to \$102,046.91
- Once these are processed a total of \$356,320.54 will be paid out of 07 funds to the district.

CWI 2008

- There were 82 counties that applied for the Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant that will total \$164,000.
- 21 of those 82 SWCD's had never before received funding from a CWI grant. Those counties are:
Benton, Boone, Clinton, Decatur, Fountain, Greene, Howard, Jefferson, Lake, Martin, Monroe, Montgomery, Newton, Parke, Porter, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Joseph, Vermillion, Wabash, Warren
- The Sediment and Nutrient Reduction grants are due by Friday, February 1st.

The last round of quarterly reports were due January 1st.

ICP Accountability Work Group

January 2008 Report

ISDA Web Application

Phase one of the ISDA Web application is nearing completion. The Web application, which will allow SWCDs to submit their annual financial reports and Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant reports on-line, will enter the final testing stages at the end of this month. The application will also allow SWCDs to update their District contact information for both supervisors and staff and will automatically feed those updates to the SWCD on-line directory located on the ISDA Website at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2394.htm>.

The Division of Soil Conservation created the Web application in an effort to streamline reporting efforts for SWCDs, as well as allow the Division to better track and store data. The Division will use the data, which is stored in a database, to generate annual reports and analyze the overall impact of the Clean Water Indiana Grants Program.

Beginning in February, the Division will train the District Support Specialists, who in turn will train the SWCDs on the use of the Web application. SWCDs will be able to start utilizing the Web application this spring.

This summer, the Division hopes to begin phase two of the project which will focus on the addition of the CWI grant applications and in-kind tracking mechanisms to the Web application. For more information about the ISDA Web application contact Deb Fairhurst at dfairhurst@isda.in.gov.

Rapid Watershed Assessments

In December, Schneider Corporation completed Phase I of the Indiana Rapid Watershed Assessments. Currently, NRCS is modifying the data so it can be viewed in both versions of ArcReader 8.3 and 9.2. ISDA-DCS hopes to post the results of Phase I on their website within the next two months so everyone can access and utilize the data.

The Rapid Watershed Assessments involve the collection of quantitative and qualitative data to develop a profile for each Indiana 8-digit watershed. Data includes:

- Physical Descriptions:
 - Acres of row crops and urban land
 - Confined livestock number
 - Feet of streams
- Resource Concerns:
 - Impaired water bodies
 - Karst areas
 - Wildlife resource concern areas
- Census and Social Data:
 - Full-time producers
 - Part-time producers
 - Minority producers
- Current status of resources
 - No-till acres
 - Buffers
 - Wetlands

Last summer, NRCS with the support of ICP partners, received a grant to conduct Phase 2 of the Rapid Watershed Assessments for six pilot 8-digit watersheds including:

- Upper White River Watershed: East Central Indiana (HUC 05120201)
- St. Joseph Watershed: Northeastern Indiana (HUC 04100003)
- Muscatatuck River Watershed: Southeastern Indiana (HUC 05120207)
- Pigeon-Highland Watershed: Southwestern Indiana (HUC 05140202)
- Kankakee Watershed Northwest Indiana (HUC 07120001)
- Sugar Creek Watershed Southeastern Indiana (HUC 05120107)

Phase 2 will provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders. These assessments help landowners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals. Data included in Phase 2 includes:

- Current resource conditions and operation and maintenance costs,
- Desired resource conditions
- Conservation practice and system recommendations, along with operation and maintenance costs
- Qualitative effects on primary resource concerns
- Potential funding sources for implementation

NRCS hopes to have Phase 2 completed by July 2008. For more information regarding Indiana's Rapid Watershed Assessments contact Deb Fairhurst at dfairhurst@isda.in.gov.

State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
January 14, 2007
FSA Report

1. The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2008, signed into law on 12/26/07, provides a continuation of CRP program authority after December 31, 2007 until March 15, 2008. Based on this authority, FSA can continue to accept and approve offers for CRP and CREP enrollment until March 15th. It is hopeful that a Farmbill we be signed prior to this expiration.
2. FSA and ISDA signed an addendum to the current CREP agreement in December. This addendum removed the CREP agreement expiration date of December 31, 2007 and allows Indiana's CREP agreement to roll forward with any Farmbill extension or an approved 2008 Farmbill.
3. The Consolidated Appropriations Act that was signed on 12/26/07 also halted any consolidation plans that had been approved by FSA for implementation in Indiana. Therefore, FSA will not be proceeding with the consolidation of offices within 120 days until further notice is received. There is a current proposal being considered by Congress to include in the Farmbill language that FSA shall not consolidate any offices during the 2008 Farmbill period.
4. Due to the halt in consolidation, FSA is proceeding with the advertisement and placement of County Executive Directors (CED) in several FSA County Offices. The hope is to have new CED's hired and placed before a Farmbill is approved for implementation.
5. Without DCP and LDP contracts and payments, the Indiana FSA County Offices have been utilizing this lull in workload to promote CRP and CREP. The Partnership should take advantage of this time to work with FSA on conservation issues that have been placed on the backburner during recent years.

State Soil Conservation Board
January 14, 2008
NRCS State Conservationist Report

Farm Bill Update

On Wednesday, December 26, 2007, the President signed into law H.R. 2764, the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008). The bill provides funding for NRCS programs and extends the 2002 Farm Bill until March 15, 2008.

With most of the Members and Ag Committee staff out of town for the holidays, not much action took place over the last two weeks concerning the Farm Bill. Discussions are likely to occur this week as the Committee staff return to work. The final text of the Senate Farm Bill (H.R. 2419) is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. The "Engrossed Amendment as Agreed to by Senate [H.R.2419.EAS]" is the version to use.

Tillage Transect Results

Preliminary results from the last Indiana Tillage Transect are in. While a more thorough report will be forthcoming, initial results indicate that No-Till Corn jumped from 19% in 2004 to 27% in 2007 and Soybeans went from 61% in 2004 to 69% in 2007. A conservative estimate of the soil loss reduction on Indiana cropland as a result of these no-till increases is over 1,000,000 tons annually.

SWCD Capacity Building Opportunities

SWCDs have two opportunities for capacity building. One is to remove shared space costs from rent expenses if support for USDA programs can be documented on a simple form; and the other is submitting proposals for Contribution Agreements for technical assistance or administrative support. Additional information has been provided through e-mailed letters to staff and supervisors, and in IASWCD Weekly Updates. In addition, NRCS staff will be answering questions at designated times at the NRCS booth space tomorrow.